

13 c/Ops

MGF 010-81

4 August 1981

Memorandum for: Director, FBIS
Through : Chief, Operations Group
Subject : Monthly Report--Gulf Bureau--July 1981

I. GENERAL

Gulf continued to fill out its monitor positions during the month. Arabic monitor-trainee [redacted] arrived with his wife and child and began work immediately. [redacted] an experienced translator, began processing live program summaries almost immediately and has grasped the essentials of monitoring quite rapidly. His addition to our Arabic team places us in a position to assume coverage of GULF NEWS AGENCY, QATAR NEWS AGENCY and EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY from Jordan Bureau in mid-August as planned.

Our other new arrival is Russian/Arabic trainee [redacted] STAT [redacted] A Sudanese by nationality, [redacted] STAT gives the bureau a Russian capability for the first time. For the time being, he will be used solely for Russian regional broadcasts.

We are still awaiting NOC's for our Armenian/Arabic sister tandem. With their arrival in late August or early September, Gulf's monitorial section will number 13.

The family of Persian/Urdu monitor [redacted] arrived STAT from Peshawar at the end of the month. [redacted] and the two STAT sons plan to reside permanently in Bahrain, although the boys may return to Pakistan at some future date to complete their education.

II. OPERATIONS

1. Former Iranian President Bani-Sadr's flight to France late in the month prompted the bureau to call in a Persian monitor to backstop Tehran and cover regional radios for possible reportage and reaction. Ahvaz and Shiraz radios failed to mention either his escape or the Iranian Government demand for his extradition. However, both Tehran and Zahedan Urdu did report both items in newscasts the same day.

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2. Electrical power was cut off throughout Manama 28 July following a fire in the city's main power station. At the bureau the outage began at 0630 local time and lasted until 1225. Some parts of the city were without power until 1900 or later.

3. Editorial and teletype procedural changes were implemented 3 July to conform with MIDAS system requirements. Editors, monitors and teletype operators adjusted to the new system quickly and with a minimum of problems.

4. The bureau continued its efforts to cover the live Majlis sessions that have been carried on 990 khz and 106.9 mhz. Unfortunately, the sessions are seldom aired, and there is little pattern as to on what days this will occur. The sessions were heard on 4, 5, 6, 20, 27 and 29 July on 990 khz and on 20 July on 106.9 mhz. This is the only time the session has been heard on this frequency.

5. During the absence of one of PMU's Arabic monitors, Gulf Bureau has assumed coverage of Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH, Riyadh AR-RIYAD, Jidda UKAZ and Kuwait AL-HADAF. This coverage will probably continue until mid-September.

6. Primary coverage of AFP in English for Iran, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula returned to Nicosia on 18 July.

7. While one of Bangkok's Urdu monitors is on leave, Gulf is covering Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu at 1500 GMT. Coverage began on 27 July and will run through 26 August.

8. As requested by Analysis Group, Gulf is forwarding a number of Kuwaiti newspapers each week. This project will last 8-10 weeks.

III. VISITS

1. Regional Engineer [] visited the bureau 13 and 14 July after completing a TDY assignment in Islamabad. STAT

2. Nicosia Bureau Chief Monitor [] did some STAT
cruising and briefed Gulf's new monitors on basic cruising techniques during a stopover 13-18 July. Mike was also on his way back to Cyprus after conducting a cruising-survey in Islamabad.

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Acting Chief

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